

irritant when given in small and repeated doses. Accordingly he prescribes it in very large ones, beginning with thirty-six, forty, or even sixty grains in the twenty-four hours. M. Bally asserts, that this practice not only arrests fevers promptly but prevents the occurrence of the organic alterations that are too often left behind. Like those who pursue the very opposite plan, M. Bally can appeal to a number of successful cases. This physician has been recently experimenting on the *salicine*, or principle obtained from the bark of the willow. In the case of a young pregnant woman, who attributed her complaint to terror, and suffered from *two fits* during the day, the fever was allowed to run on for seven days, and eighteen grains of the *salicine* in three doses were then prescribed. The remedy was continued for the two succeeding days, when its use was discontinued on account of some irritation which it seemed to produce in the throat; the fever was perfectly arrested. The reporter adds that several other equally conclusive cases have occurred in favour of this medicine.

The ligature of the limbs has been tried several times at the Hôtel Dieu, and with occasional success, but not sufficient to inspire any extraordinary opinion of its powers in the minds of the experimenters.

*La Charité*.—Experiments have been made at this hospital on the febrifuge powers of the misletoe in powder, which has lately been represented as more efficient than even the sulphate of quinine. M. Chomel has employed it on five or six patients during the course of the last Autumn, but without success. The following facts deserve to be recorded and remembered. It is not because the virtues of a miserable drug like the misletoe, if drug it can be called, are put in question, but because the same circumstances step in to disturb our reasonings and vitiate our conclusions with respect to more potent and efficacious articles of the materia medica. The fact then to which we would draw the attention of our readers is this—M. Chomel being desirous of testing the powers of the misletoe, selected, last Autumn, *twenty-two* patients labouring under intermittent fever. Before exhibiting the medicine he waited for the appearance of some paroxysms, and the consequence was, that in *seven* the fever ceased spontaneously, and a cure ensued without the aid of any medicinal remedy whatever. In *four* other patients the paroxysms gradually and spontaneously diminished, and required a very small dose of the quinine for their complete dispersion. Of the eleven remaining individuals, *eight* displayed symptoms of intermittent phlegmasia, and were cured by antiphlogistics; and the final three, who alone became subjects for the misletoe, experienced no benefit from its use but were cured by the quinine. This does not prove much in favour of the misletoe.

34. *On the Dangers of Abstinence and Insufficient Alimentation*.—M. Piorry has presented to the Royal Academy of Medicine, a Memoir on this subject; the following are his notions in relation thereto, as given in the *Archives Générales*, for April last. M. P. first inquires what are the effects of absolute abstinence and insufficient alimentation on the blood, the muscles, the heart, the lungs, the digestive tube and its appendages, and the nervous system. He asserts, that rigorous and prolonged abstinence diminishes the quantity of blood and its proportion of fibrin, the volume and consistence of the muscles, those of the heart itself; the tissues lose their colour, the veins sink, the heart and arteries beat with less force, and all the anatomical and physiological changes take place which follow loss of blood. From these facts, M. Piorry concludes, that evil effects are often produced by too rigid diet in diseases; and he considers various diseases in this point of view.

According to M. P. a restricted diet is injurious in hypertrophy of the heart, notwithstanding what Valsalva has said, especially when there is a contraction of the orifices of this organ; hypertrophy is, in fact, in these cases, a necessary power to overcome the resistance resulting from these contractions: general bleedings must then be had recourse to, which mechanically facilitate the cir-

culatation, rather than to local bleedings, and especially to diet, which diminishes slowly the mass of the blood, and besides have the inconvenience of impoverishing this fluid. This is especially applicable, says M. Piorry, in hypertrophy in which the heart is soft and acts feebly; here we must strictly guard against severe diet, which is useful in hypertrophies in which the heart is hard and beats with energy. He denies also the advantages of restricted diet in aneurisms of the heart and large vessels, because the blood is deprived of its plasticity, and the retraction of the abdomen, and of the viscera contained in this cavity, makes the blood flow in greater quantity into the cavities of the heart and large vessels. Abstinence and diet, he says, are useful in recent acute pneumonia, but hurtful in the pneumonia of old persons, resulting from a mechanical obstacle to the circulation; he has cured at La Salpêtrière more cases of this kind by tonic regimen, than by diet and diluents. M. P. says also, that in phthisis pulmonalis diet does not prevent either the softening of the crude tubercles, or the absorption of the pus from those that are soft and suppurated; from which he concludes, that it unnecessarily adds to the exhaustion of the patient: he thinks, therefore, that a diet essentially animal, would be often proper, arguing from the fact, that tubercles never occur in carnivorous animals, and, on the contrary, are very frequent in herbivorous. He asserts, that if diet is indispensable in acute gastritis and enteritis, it is injurious in the latter stages of these diseases, even when there is still loss of appetite, loathing, furred tongue, pain, heat of the epigastrium, &c. Assuming that the gastric juices are acid, and can corrode the parietes even of this organ, he thinks that the stomach would be less irritated by food, than by its own juices; he believes that many cases of softening of the mucous membrane of the stomach in diseases of long continuance, are often the effects of these acid juices, and prolonged abstinence. He finally says, that this often causes gastritis, as we see it in individuals who die of hunger. In diseases of the brain and its membranes, he says, that in certain persons abstinence produces head-ache; in infants, convulsions; and in most cases delirium.

Verily this is a consoling system for the gourmand. Were honest Sancho now ruling his Island of Barataria, Dr. Piorry might confidently reckon upon being installed into the office of court physician, to the discomfort of Dr. Snatchaway.

35. *Malignant Intermittent Fever Successfully Treated by the Endermic Method.*—In the *Annali Universali di Medicina*, for January, 1830, two cases of pernicious intermittent, one, a man aged thirty-six, the other, a girl aged ten years, are related by Dr. BROGLIA DEL PERSICA, successfully treated by the sulphate of quinine applied according to the endermic method.

36. *Paralysis of the Tongue.*—The subject of this case was a woman, aged thirty-two years, who had had the preceding year a very violent cerebral fever, subsequent to which, she was affected, during four months, with a great difficulty of speaking, which, however, after a time left her. She suffered, however, a relapse of this difficulty, and nine days afterwards was admitted into the clinical wards of La Charité under the care of M. CAYOL. She pronounced words with so much difficulty, that she could not make herself understood. Nevertheless, she had no difficulty in thrusting her tongue out of her mouth, and in performing all the movements necessary for mastication and deglutition. The intellectual faculties were in a healthy condition, as were all the other functions. She had only a severe headache. M. Cayol ordered twenty leeches to the base of the cranium; repeated purgations with Seidlitz powders; and finally, a seton to the nucha. By these measures a complete cure was effected in three weeks.—*Revue Médicale*, April, 1830.

37. *Treatment of Chorea.*—Baron DUFREIX has for a long period employed with success, as a principal remedy in the treatment of chorea, cold baths and